

# 3 Steps To Replacing Your Lawn



## **Step One: Identify your type of lawn.**

Lawn grasses are divided into two categories: warm season and cool season. If you aren't sure which kind you have, dig up a sample and take it to your local nursery for identification.

## **Step Two: Kill your lawn.**

Cool season lawn (Fescue, Rye) may be killed with a post-emergent nonselective herbicide (active ingredient: glyphosate) while it's actively growing (March-May and September-October), then raked up off the soil surface. Cool season grasses are clumping in form and can also be cut at the root level to remove. For herbicide products available to homeowners, contact your local nursery professional.

Warm season lawn (Bermuda, St. Augustine, Zoysia) is most effectively eliminated with a post-emergent nonselective translocating herbicide during its active growing season (May-September) for the Central Valley area. If you choose to eliminate a Bermudagrass lawn, you must effectively kill all shoots and roots. To treat with a nonselective herbicide, avoid mowing for several weeks and spray grass per product label when winds are calm. Continue watering grass as usual. Reapplication is recommended in two week intervals until no further growth occurs. Once total control is gained, rake soil surface or till to remove dead plant parts.



To kill your lawn without chemicals, a process called solarization can be effective by using radiant energy from the sun. Start solarization during the hottest weeks of the year by first mowing your lawn very short, clearing the area of debris, leveling the soil surface, and irrigating to a soil depth of 12 inches. Next, apply hole-free, clear plastic sheeting over the grass. Then, secure the plastic around the edge of the turfgrass and leave on for 6-8 weeks. Don't forget to recycle the plastic when you are done.

## **Step Three: Replace your lawn with water-wise ornamental grasses or groundcover.**

Rake, scrape, or shovel your dead grass away! Then, amend your new planting area with compost to improve drainage and water retention. Choose your water-wise lawn alternative using the plant guide in this brochure. After planting, weed-block fabric should be laid over the soil and top dressed with mulch to achieve weed control and water retention.



Enjoy potentially lower water bills and less maintenance with your new water-conserving lifestyle!

# CREATING GREEN GRASS ALTERNATIVES

## *How to Replace THIRSTY LAWN WITH WATER-WISE GROUNDCOVER & ORNAMENTAL GRASSES*



### **FOLLOW THE OUTDOOR WATERING SCHEDULE**

The outdoor watering schedule changes twice a year. For a current schedule, go to [www.fresno.gov/water](http://www.fresno.gov/water). To report water waste, or learn about our FREE landscape consultation services, call Water Conservation at 621-5480. You can also email us at [waterconservation@fresno.gov](mailto:waterconservation@fresno.gov). Call for Spanish or Hmong translation.



Water Conservation Program  
1910 E. University  
Fresno, CA 93703-2988

For more information contact:  
the City of Fresno Water Conservation Program  
(559) 621-5480  
Email: [Waterconservation@fresno.gov](mailto:Waterconservation@fresno.gov)  
or visit  
[www.fresno.gov/water](http://www.fresno.gov/water).



# SAY GOODBYE TO YOUR MOWED LAWN AND HELLO *To A New Green Look*

Fresno’s suburban landscape has often been identified by its green lawns. Unfortunately, green lawns are not suitable to this climate as they require an incredible amount of water. That’s why it makes sense to make the switch from lawn to water-wise plants.

The good news is you can have a beautiful water-conserving garden that requires little maintenance, simply by eliminating your lawn and choosing alternative lawn options. Lawn alternatives are plentiful and include colorful and interesting water-conserving perennials and ground covers, as well as pavers, mulches, sitting areas, and objects of art.

Within this pamphlet, you’ll find many different alternatives to lawn. From walkable grasslike plants similar to what you may already have, to nonwalkable groundcover, and everything in between – when it comes to reinventing your lawn, the sky is the limit!



# *Water-Wise Groundcover and Ornamental Grass Guide* **FOR WATER-WISE SPECIES**

## WALKABLE

COMMON NAME	Botanical Name
“Grasslike”	
<input type="checkbox"/> Buffalograss	<i>Buchloe dactyloides</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue Grama Grass	<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> California Meadow Sedge	<i>Carex pansa</i>
“Non-grasslike”	
<input type="checkbox"/> Woolly Yarrow	<i>Achillea tomentosa</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Red Spike Ice Plant	<i>Cephalophyllum ‘Red Spike’</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Knotweed	<i>Persicaria capitata</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Creeping Thyme	<i>Thymus serpyllum</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Woolly Thyme	<i>Thymus pseudolanuginosus</i>

## LIGHT FOOT TRAFFIC TOLERATED

COMMON NAME	Botanical Name
“Grasslike”	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lily Turf	<i>Liriope muscari ‘Silvery Sunproof’</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Berkeley Sedge	<i>Carex divulsa</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Catlin Sedge	<i>Carex texensis</i>
“Non-grasslike”	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Red Apple	<i>Aptenia cordifolia ‘Red Apple’</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Snow-in-Summer	<i>Cerastium tomentosum</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Dwarf Plumbago	<i>Ceratostigma plumbaginoides</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Santa Barbara Daisy	<i>Erigeron karvinskianus</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Gazania	<i>Gazania spp.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Lippia	<i>Phyla nodiflora</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lamb’s Ear	<i>Stachys byzantina</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground Morning Glory	<i>Convolvulus mauritanicus</i> non

## NON WALKABLE

COMMON NAME	Botanical Name
“Grasslike”	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue Fescue	<i>Festuca glauca</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Creeping Wild Rye	<i>Leymus triticoides</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Mexican Feather Grass	<i>Nassella (Stipa) tenuissima*</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Little Bunny Dwarf Fountain Grass	<i>Pennisetum alopecuroides</i>
“Non-grasslike”	
<input type="checkbox"/> Emerald Carpet Manzanita	<i>Arctostaphylos ‘Emerald Carpet’</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground Cover Manzanita	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi ‘Pt. Reyes’</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> African Daisy	<i>Arctotis spp.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Creeping Saltbush	<i>Atriplex semibaccata</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Silver Mound Artemesia	<i>Artemisia schmidtiana ‘Silver Mound’</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Lowfast Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster dammei ‘Lowfast’</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Red Spike Ice Plant	<i>Cephalophyllum ‘Red Spike’</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Rosea Ice Plant	<i>Drosanthemum floribundum</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue Carpet Juniper	<i>Juniperus horizontalis ‘Wiltonii’</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground Cover Juniper	<i>Juniperus procumbens ‘Nana’</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Trailing Lantana	<i>Lantana montevidensis</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Prostrate Myoporum	<i>Myoporum parvifolium</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Catmint	<i>Nepeta x faassenii</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Oregano	<i>Origanum laevigatum</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Ornamental Oregano	<i>Origanum rotundifolium</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Germander	<i>Teucrium X lucidrys (chamaedrys)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Prostrate Rosemary	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis ‘Prostratus’</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Lavender Cotton	<i>Santolina chamaecyparissus</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Green Santolina	<i>Santolina rosmarinifolia</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Stonecrop	<i>Sedum spp.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Hen and Chicks	<i>Echeveria elegans</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Hen and Chicks	<i>Echeveria x imbricata</i>

\*readily reseeds

# *Saving Water* **DRIP BY DRIP**

Whether you change out your lawn with water-wise groundcover or you’re just looking to become more water wise with your current landscape, drip irrigation is one of the most efficient irrigation delivery systems available. Drip irrigation delivers water slowly to the plant’s roots, allowing water to penetrate into the root zone with little run off, evaporation, or wind and overspray water loss.



Check with your local home improvement store, nursery, or irrigation supply store for a full selection of drip irrigation supplies and grab the City of Fresno Water Conservation Program’s pamphlet on drip irrigation – available online at [www.fresno.gov/water!](http://www.fresno.gov/water!)

